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FLICKR/SASHA KIMEL

TAKING ACTION for CLIMATE JUSTICE

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 11



First Nations Indigenous groups have taken a leading role in the fight for climate justice throughout North America.

On September 21, 2014, a massive march brought together nearly half a million people in New York City, to put pressure on governments and corporations across the world to take action on climate change. The People's Climate March took place just days before the United Nations Climate Summit. On the same day, activists in 150 countries participated in similar events designed to empower people to combat climate change around the world. "Today I march because I want to behold a brighter future," a retired coal miner told reporters from the *Huffington Post*. "We have destroyed ourselves. We have destroyed our health, and I'm here because our political leaders have failed us."

Scientists agree that the use of fossil fuels such as coal, petroleum and natural gas contributes to global warming. The increase in the Earth's average

temperature is affecting the planet's climate through rising sea levels, extreme droughts, flooding, hotter summers and colder winters. Activists are using a variety of methods to bring awareness to these changes and demand that governments act, including direct action, divestment and boycotts and nonviolent protest.

Direct Action – In 2013, climate activists Ken Ward and Jay O'Hara used their lobster boat to block a 40,000-ton shipment of coal from reaching a Massachusetts power station. Although they were not arrested for

their action, they were charged with civil disobedience, but their case was dismissed. The district attorney sided with them, saying, "I do believe they're right, that we're at a crisis point with climate change."

Nonviolent Protest – The group "Idle No More" has used peaceful teach-ins, flash-mob dances, hunger strikes, prayers and discussion to advocate for Indigenous people's rights to self-determination and land and water protection. Formed by four women to oppose a Canadian bill which allows expansion of tar sands oil drilling on Native lands, Idle No More has become a powerful voice in the climate change debate.

"We know about climate change and that it's already affecting many species and also our communities. We can't live in a world that doesn't have clean water and air," says Idle No More co-founder, Sheelah McLean.

According to May Boeve of 350.org, the People's Climate March was just the beginning of new movements and actions related to climate change. On the morning after the march, a group of activists tied to the Occupy movement staged a sit-in called "Flood Wall Street" in New York City's financial center. The purpose of the action was to protest against the role of banks and corporations in aggravating (worsening) climate change.

As the marches in New York and around the world indicate, ordinary people are becoming increasingly more vocal about climate change. Flood Wall Street activist Zach Weinstene doesn't think the world can wait any longer to act: "The time for action was actually 25 years ago."

Divestment: when a person or an organization owns a percentage of a company and decides to sell that portion. This way they are no longer financially supporting the company or benefitting from its profits.

On the morning after the People's Climate March, a group of activists tied to the Occupy movement staged a sit-in called "Flood Wall Street" in New York City's financial center.



FLICKR/TAKVER

350.org is an international environmental organization that helped to organize the People's Climate March.

their action, they were charged with civil disobedience, but their case was dismissed. The district attorney sided with them, saying, "I do believe they're right, that we're at a crisis point with climate change."

Divestment – Activist groups like 350.org, one of the organizers of the People's Climate March, advocate for **divestment** from large fossil fuel companies. Daniel K. Floyd, a member of the student-led divestment



SUSAN MELKISETHIAN



ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY

Meet... **Mimi** from Switzerland

Name: Miriam "Mimi" Borella

Age: 12

Lives In: Bellinzona, Canton of Ticino, Switzerland

Languages Spoken: Italian, English and French. In Ticino we speak Italian in school. At home I also speak French and English.

Parents' Jobs: My mother is the dean at a college and my father works for the police.

Favorite Food: Pizza

Favorite Subject in School: Mathematics

Favorite Animal: Dog

Favorite Activity: Playing outside with friends, as it is often nice outside

Favorite Flower: Jasmine flower

What She Wants to Be When She Grows Up: A doctor

Where She Wants to Live When She Grows Up: Bellinzona, Switzerland



FLICKR/JASPER180969

Switzerland at a Glance

Official Country Name: Schweiz (Swiss-German), Suisse (French), Svizzera (Italian), Svizra (Romansch)

Capital: Bern

Official Languages: 5.3% Swiss-German, 22.4% French, 8.4% Italian, 0.5% Romansch

Population: 8,061,516

Geography: Switzerland is a mountainous, landlocked country in central Europe about twice the size of New Jersey.

Interesting Fact: 55% of Switzerland's electricity is generated by hydroelectric power.

Brief History: Switzerland was founded in 1291, and its current constitution was written in 1848. Switzerland is a neutral country, as it has not been involved in an international armed conflict since 1815.

It did not join the United Nations until 2002. It is not a member of the European Union but is completely surrounded by European Union countries.

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 11



Seven

The age of some children working on tobacco farms in the United States. Source: Human Rights Watch

nation&world

An Inside Look at Kids Working on Tobacco Farms

By JACKSON ZAVALA, age 11



Virtually every day in the summer, there are kids in the United States who work on tobacco farms from sunup to sunset.

The children work in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, where 90 percent of America's tobacco is grown. Most of these kids, ranging in age from seven to 17, are the children of Latino immigrants. They usually work for minimum wage, \$7.25 an hour, to support their poor families.

Margaret Wurth, children's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit human rights organization, co-authored a report on kids' experiences at the farms. On her first day, she saw a 12-year-old boy working in 90-degree heat without a hat or shoes, only wearing a garbage bag for protection, she told *IndyKids*.

Nicotine, which is a poisonous chemical, can get absorbed into the

skin when it touches the wet tobacco leaves. As a result, kids get an illness called "Green Tobacco Sickness," which can lead to vomiting, dizziness and irregular heart rates. There are also long-term effects like respiratory problems and cancer due to exposure to pesticides.

Federal labor law allows children working on the farms to work longer hours, at younger ages, and in more hazardous conditions than all other jobs for children, if they have permission from their parents. Wurth estimates that a few thousand children work on tobacco farms each year.

But changes might be on the way for young

workers: in September, 35 Democrats in the House of Representatives officially requested a ban on kids under 18 working in hazardous conditions on tobacco farms, citing Wurth's Human Rights Watch report.

"Truthfully, it's work that's so dangerous that really only adult farm workers should be doing most of the work on tobacco farms in this country," said Wurth.



HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Federal labor law allows children working on the farms to work longer hours, at younger ages, and in more hazardous conditions than all other jobs for children, with permission from their parents.

California Residents Under Severe Drought

By LILY KUZMINSKI, age 10



California has been suffering a major drought since 2012. The drought has had a big impact on California's residents. Many have lost access to water and the area's wildfire season has been more intense as a result.

Nearly 82 percent of California continues to suffer severe drought. Some residents have even had their taps run dry. "You don't think of water as privilege until you don't have it anymore," said Yolanda Serrato, a Mexican immigrant living in Tulare county. Many families in Tulare County asked state officials for help when their water ran out, but discovered there was no agency that could help them. Yolanda and her family of five get a limited amount of water from a local charity.

Wildfires are also worsening due to the drought. According to Cal Fire, California's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, this year's wildfire season was on track to be the most destructive on record. Droughts are not uncommon, but a team of scientists from Stanford University claims that climate change has tripled the probability of drought conditions.



FLICKR/KEVIN CORTOPASSI

While California officials have imposed fines as high as \$500 for wasting water, many residents are already mindful of their water consumption and hopeful that the drought will soon lift.

While California officials have imposed fines as high as \$500 for wasting water, many residents are already mindful of their water consumption and are hopeful that the drought will soon lift. "I personally believe things can improve, little by little," said 12-year-old California resident Isys Suasin. "Turning the water off while you brush your teeth . . . can still make a big difference."

indykids!

Phone: (212) 592-0116

E-mail: info@indykids.org

Website: www.indykids.org

Mail: IndyKids

P.O. Box 2281

New York, NY 10163

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HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact *IndyKids*! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

VOLUNTEERS

Design: Mike Newton

IndyKids Team: Toi Sin Arvidsson, Sara Behrman, Mike Burke, Owen Davis, Todd Eaton, GuerruntZ, Scott Luxor, Kit Mills, Jyothi Natarajan, Malik Nickens, Isis Phillips, Diana Raimondi, Nancy Ryerson, Katie Schlechter, Bonnie Singer, Jonathan Tupas, Amanda Vender

Mentors: Hannah Aranoff, Toi Sin Arvidsson, Angela Barbuti, Randee Dawn, Girvani Dhyani, Patrice Johnson, Leigh Anne Keichline, Lisa Levine, Scott Luxor, Elisabeth Morgan, Alison Moxley, Malik Nickens, Nancy Ryerson, Bonnie Singer, Jonathan Tupas

Editors: Mike Burke, Owen Davis, Felicité Fallon, Justin Hicks, Laura Grow-Nyberg, Malik Nickens, Jyothi Natarajan, Nancy Ryerson, Katie Schlechter, Neil Shibata

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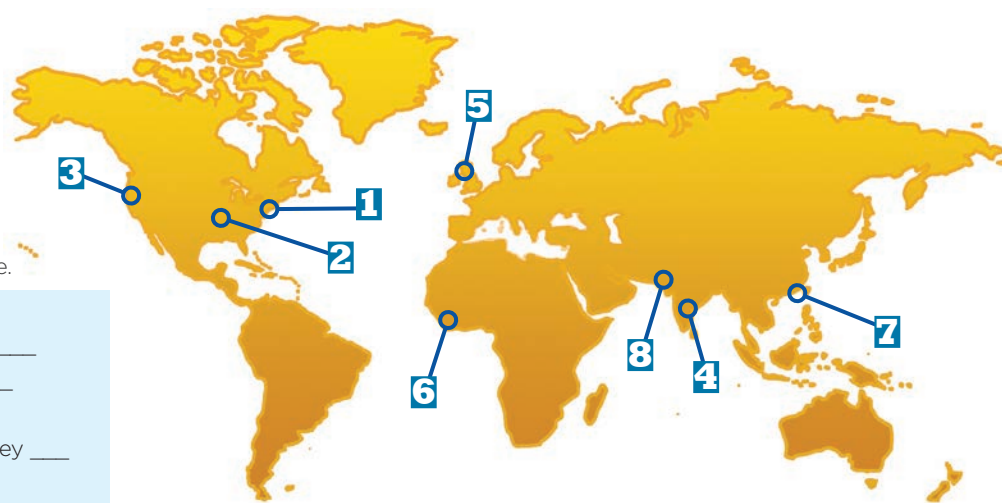
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Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| a) California ____ | e) Scotland ____ |
| b) Hong Kong ____ | f) Liberia ____ |
| c) Pakistan ____ | g) India ____ |
| d) Ferguson ____ | h) New Jersey ____ |



Young Protesters Take to the Streets in Hong Kong

By ALICE CHEKUNOVA, age 10

In September 2014, proposed changes to how Hong Kong votes for its leaders have led to large peaceful protests in the streets, many run by young students.

Hong Kong, a region of 7.2 million residents, is a part of the People's Republic of China, which does not use a "one person, one vote" system of electing leaders. But because Hong Kong was ruled by Britain until 1997, it has been allowed to use different voting rules than China.

But protesters believe that China has too much power over Hong Kong. Right now in Hong Kong, a chief executive (who is like a governor) is elected with a majority vote from a 1,200-person "election committee" full of people who support Beijing, China's capital. In 2007, China said Hong Kong could have a popular election in 2017, but this August, China changed the rule. They said the committee would choose up to three people to run for office, and then Hong Kong residents could vote on those candidates.

That doesn't seem fair to protesters, who feel



The umbrella has become a symbol in the Hong Kong protests. One says, "I am a student. I support Hong Kong," and another says, "Not afraid of rain, not afraid to protest."

Beijing-selected politicians tend to side with corporations and the rich.

"The younger generation feels the future of Hong Kong falls on its shoulders," 17-year-old protester Agnes Chow told the *New York Times*. "Without a democratic system, there is no

pressure on the government to change."

Not everyone thinks the proposed voting change is a bad idea, though. A *South China Morning Post* poll said that 39 percent of residents believe the changes should be approved.

Some believe the protests are causing other problems. "So many popular tourist areas are being shut down [...]" said Regina Ip, a pro-Beijing lawmaker, to the *Times*. "Clearly a lot of economic damage is being inflicted, and also very severe damage to our image overseas."

Challenging Gender Stereotypes on the Baseball Field

By ALEJANDRA PAULINO, age 12

Mo'ne Davis, a Little League superstar, is changing unfair attitudes about girls playing male-dominated sports.

Davis is the first girl to pitch a winning game and **shutout** in Little League post-season history. "More people are talking about [Davis] than Derek Jeter," said Mark Hyman. "That's a lot for a 13-year-old kid."

She was also the first Little Leaguer to be featured on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* magazine. Usually male athletes are the only ones to make it onto the sports magazine.

Another girl made baseball history 50 years earlier. According to the Visionary Project, an organization committed to recording the history of notable African Americans, after being denied a tryout for All-American Girls league, Mamie "Peanut" Johnson used her determination to become one of the three women to play baseball in the **Negro Leagues**.

Johnson, who is now 75, pitched for the Indianapolis Clowns from 1953 to 1955. "I was already the only woman to be a major league pitcher," she said.

Mo'ne Davis is intent on breaking down barriers to girls' participation in male sports. Davis told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "The attention should not just



Davis is the first girl to pitch a winning game and shutout in Little League post-season history.

be on one girl; more girls should join boys' teams so it is a tradition and it won't be so special."

Shutout: A game in which the losing team does not score at all

Negro League: A sports association made up of teams of African-American players; it existed from 1920 to 1951 before baseball was desegregated.

newsbriefs



Youngest Nobel Peace Prize Winner

By RIDA ALI, age 10

On October 10, 2014, Malala Yousafzai, a 17-year-old activist for girls' right to education, jointly won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize with Indian national Kailash Satyarthi "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education." In October 2012, Malala was shot by members of the Taliban in her home country, Pakistan, for demanding girls' right to go to school. In a meeting with President Obama a year later, she told him that U.S. drone attacks in Pakistan are "fueling terrorism" there.



Scotland Votes "No" on Independence

By MATTHEW KUE, age 11, and IndyKids Staff

On September 18, 2014, Scotland voted to stay in the United Kingdom, which also includes England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland has had an independence movement since 1934, and it became more popular in the 1970s when oil was found offshore. Supporters wanted more control over their economy and welfare system, but naysayers noted they would need their own army and currency.



Ebola and Global Healthcare Inequality

By DECLAN PETERSON, age 12, and IndyKids Staff

As of October 20, more than 4,500 West Africans have died from Ebola since the outbreak began in March 2014. Ebola is a rare disease that is primarily found in sub-Saharan Africa, where the first recorded outbreak occurred in 1976. On August 7, the World Health Organization declared the epidemic a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern." Critics have blamed the spread of the disease on global economic inequality and a slow international response to the epidemic.

COP WATCH: Youth and Communities Speak Out

Introduction by INDYKIDS STAFF

In black and Latino communities throughout the United States, many young people feel unsafe around the people who are supposed to be there to protect and serve them: the police. A Gallup poll from 2011 through 2014 showed that 59 percent of white people feel they can really trust the police, compared to only 37 percent of black people.

According to Indiana grandmother LeTava Mabilijengo, black and Latino youth live in a very different reality than their white peers: “We don’t tell our black sons the same things that white women tell their sons.” Like many parents of black and Latino kids, LeTeva feels like she carries the extra burden of having to teach her children to deal with police officers very carefully.



FLICKR/JAMELLE BOUIE

Ferguson, MO, residents expressing their frustration and anger over the August 9, 2014, shooting of unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown.

Over-Policing and Police Brutality in Communities of Color By MARIANNE NACANAYAY, age 12

Youth justice advocate Xavier McElrath-Bey, now 36 years old, had his first encounter with the police when he was six, growing up in Chicago. “My encounters with police were plentiful and overwhelmingly negative... They slapped me, punched me, poked me with nightsticks and choked me so often that I thought their behavior was part of the process—that it was normal.”

Police are called upon to enforce the law. But what happens when policing becomes excessive and leads to tragic consequences for people like Xavier? The act of police stopping and frisking someone, the presence of police in schools, criminalizing immigration, criminalizing prisons and police brutality are all forms of over-policing.

According to the National Police Misconduct Statistics and Reporting Project, from April 2009 to June 2010, 5,986 reports of police misconduct were reported nationwide. Within the same time period, 382 fatalities were reportedly related to police misconduct.



FLICKR/SAMANTHA GRACE LEWIS

During the first half of 2014, the American Civil Liberties Union of New York reported that 81 percent of people stopped and frisked in New York City were black or Latino. Eighty-two percent of everyone stopped during this time were completely innocent.

Stop-and-Frisk

In 2011, the Vera Institute of Justice surveyed 530 young people aged 18 to 25 from parts of New York City where the majority of residents are either African American or Hispanic. They found that 76 percent of those surveyed had been stopped by the police at least once in the past year, and 51 percent of those believed that they had been treated worse because of their ethnicity. Eighty-eight percent of those surveyed noted that they think people in their neighborhood do not trust the police.

“My first time I was stopped and frisked, I was about 13 years old,” said Kasiem Walters, a high school senior in New York. “[T]hey instill this fear in you, and then it forces you to have this mindset that you are a criminal... we should feel like citizens of New York, and not criminals.”

Police in Schools

Over-policing also finds its way into classrooms. In 1998, the New York City Police Department took control of school safety. They increased the number of armed police officers, metal detectors, bag searches, pat-downs and school safety officers in schools.

“Sometimes the classroom feels like a jail cell,” said Jane Min, a student from Queens, New York. “I think before the city decides to post more security officers [in] our city’s schools, they should really think about the effect they are going to have on... our educations.”

Communities Raise Their Voices

In an effort to combat over-policing in communities, websites like CopWatchNYC.org have been set up to allow individuals who witness over-policing report incidents and post the evidence online.

Youth in other communities affected by over-policing are also standing up. The Dream Defenders, an organization of youth of color founded in Florida, have been active in criticizing police violence. After a police officer in Ferguson, MO, shot and killed unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown in August of this year, the group has expanded to a nationwide movement.

“I’m tired of fearing for myself when I see a police, that I’m scared something is going to happen to me,” Danielle Adams, co-president of a chapter of Dream Defenders in Tallahassee, FL, said. “I see another generation growing up, going through the things we’re going through. The work we’re doing now, we’re doing this so our next generation doesn’t have to do it anymore.”



BRETT MYERS/YOUTH RADIO

Martice Dees, 16, says he has been stopped and frisked by Ferguson, MO Police. His mother Robin says it’s long been a problem in Ferguson, “I could probably write three or four books about just being pulled over by the police for nothing.”

Letter From an Educator By MAYA JAMES

Dear _____,

You’re not mine, but you’re mine.

While watching your bulging backpacks and untied laces exit our cocoon of a classroom, I hold my breath until morning.

Each time a video is posted of earth-toned boys laid out, still bodies making snow angels in concrete, I pray.

And then there are the brown girls whose names are forgotten and whispered in the parentheses of pain; I chant for them too. My thoughts become a hashtag mantra.

#pleasedontletoneofminebenext

When you come back to me each afternoon, I breathe. You turn the corner with typical teenage chatter belying the slumped shoulders and weariness in your eyes. My lips quiver with the need to affirm you are more than a target.

#alllivesmatter

Especially yours.

I am urged to say you don’t have to always raise your hands in surrender. Arms pointed upward keep the sky from falling on our heads.

My tongue caresses words that convey there is beauty in the world, even in the face of violent ugliness.

I want to tell you it is your promise and potential that keeps me from giving in to defeat each time we lose one.

Since you’re not mine (but you’re mine) I sometimes have to stand in the silence of boundaries. So I package all of this into a simple question:

How was your day?



MAYA JAMES

Maya James is a New York City-based educator who has taught youth throughout Harlem and the Bronx over the past five years.

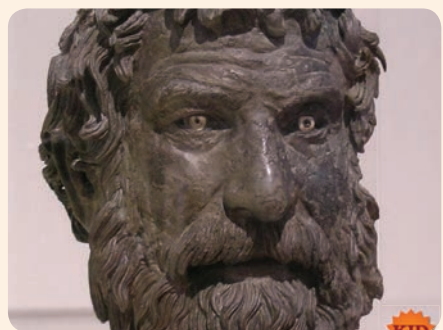


FLICKR/CLAUOMOHO

Pacific Walrus Feel Effects of Climate Change

By NYLU AVERY BERNSTAYN, age 9

On September 27, 2014, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration counted more than 35,000 Pacific walrus on a beach near Point Lay, Alaska. Scientists who study these walrus are worried by gatherings like this, or haul outs, as they are called, because Pacific walrus prefer sea ice to land. Scientists link this behavior to climate change, because as the climate warms and ice melts, the walrus are forced to move to land.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Treasures Found in Ancient Shipwreck

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 11

In 1900, a group of sponge divers found a sunken ship from between 70 and 60 BC off the coast of the Greek island of Antikythera. In the wreck, they discovered ancient statues, coins and other treasures. From September 15 to October 7, a team of divers and archaeologists returned to the site and recovered many artifacts, including a bronze spear, which may have been part of a statue of the goddess Athena.



FLICKR/RODNEY CAMPBELL

50% of Earth's Wild Animals Are Gone

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 11

Earth's wildlife population has decreased rapidly since the 1970s due to human destruction of habitat. "We have lost one-half of the animal population, and knowing this is driven by human consumption, this is clearly a call to arms, and we must act now," said Mike Barratt of World Wildlife Fund. Scientists stress the need for sustainable energy and agriculture and a stop to environmentally damaging practices like deforestation.

25,000

The estimated number of children who have read *Balaknama*, India's only newspaper written and produced by and for street kids. Source: CHETNA

culture&activism

#IAmMoreThanADistracted: Fighting for Fairer School Dress Codes

By SADIE PRICE-ELLIOTT, age 13

Girls across the United States are fighting to wear comfortable clothes to school without being labeled a "distraction." As of 2014, students at 57 percent of public schools in the country have a "strict dress code," according to the U.S. Department of Education. In May 2014, a group of middle school girls in New Jersey started the hashtag campaign, #IAmMoreThanADistracted, after their school's administration sent out multiple emails about the dress code, specifically focusing on female students.

They weren't alone. In Evanston, IL, Haven Middle School students protested their strict dress code by wearing leggings to class. Sophia Hasty, a student activist behind the protests, says the new rules aren't fair. "The reason [is] basically: 'boys,'" she argued. "It's a lot like saying that if guys do something to harass us, it's our fault for that. We're the ones being punished for what guys do."

The way dress codes are enforced can also be a problem. School administrations in Oklahoma and New Jersey schools have been accused of calling their students negative names and embarrassing them in class for violating the dress code.

According to a survey by NPR, dress codes usually target girls more than boys. Haven Middle School commented on their dress code, saying, "We believe...



#IAMMORETHANDISTRACTION/FACEBOOK

These middle school student activists in New Jersey started the #IAmMoreThanADistracted campaign after their school's administration sent out multiple emails about the dress code, specifically focusing on female students.

that it is essential to our school's climate that we set a standard of expectation and **decorum**." However, the unequal targeting of girls could be a violation of Title IX, the federal law against sex discrimination in federally funded educational settings.

Thirteen-year-old New Jersey Middle School student Sarah Wolf, who helped start #IAmMoreThanADistracted, said, "It shouldn't be that you can't wear something that makes you feel comfortable because other people have opinions about it."

Decorum: behavior that is considered acceptable for a specific environment or situation

Balaknama: Kids Report from the Streets of India

By ADEDAYO PERKOVICH, age 10

In Delhi, India, 16-year-old Chandni is the chief editor of a newspaper. *Balaknama*, which means "children's voice," is a free quarterly newspaper entirely written by kids between the ages of eight and 18. Most of them have never been to a formal school, and many of them are learning to read, write and analyze information by writing articles for *Balaknama*. They report on stories happening in their own communities: children who go to work instead of school, drug use among youth, police brutality and child marriage.

The *Balaknama* newspaper was started in 2003 by a group of street kids who were involved in the Childhood Enhancement Through Training and Action (CHETNA). "Children expressed the need to raise [their] voice in their own ways," said Sanjay Gupta, founding director of CHETNA. Since then, 2,500 kids have been a part of writing and producing nearly 50 issues of *Balaknama*, which have been read by about 25,000 kids.

Gupta also noted that by writing for *Balaknama*, children like Chandni have "their confidence level, courage, communication skills enhanced. This journey is leading to their empowerment." *Balaknama* reporters have even been invited to share their concerns at NGO and government meetings.



CHETNA

Balaknama journalists working together on the next issue of the paper

Sixteen-year-old street child and reporter, Jyoti Devi, said, "When children see their photo in the paper, they suddenly realize that they are somebody. That's how I felt when I first saw my picture in *Balaknama*... after that I decided to go more often to the learning center." She would like to continue working as a journalist: "I want to give people a voice. Street kids do all kinds of incredible things. And despite all their problems, they want to give their lives meaning. And I want to write about that."

Meet IndyKids Reporter, Samuel Martinez



ERICA MARTINEZ

By MAKAYLA BEAUFORT, age 11



Samuel Martinez, age 12, has been a kid reporter for *IndyKids* since January 2013.

Makayla: When did you realize that you liked or were interested in journalism?

Samuel: I don't know exactly when I became interested in journalism, nor would I say that there is one time in which this had happened. If I had to choose one spark, however, a major contribution was in the summer between fourth and fifth grade, when I read a small area newspaper [in California] called the *Independent Coast Observer* for the first time. It was a weekly, Thursday paper that really was interested in the people of the area, which is what intrigued me most. That there was news, if local, that directly corresponded to the people.

Where did you get the idea of becoming a reporter?

I got the idea of becoming a reporter at the same time, give or take. I had gotten my name in the paper after a small model car race in northern California, as they printed the people's name and picture if they got into the top three. I thought mainly about the feeling I had when this happened, and I mainly decided that it would be very cool as a job to give people the same excitement that I had gotten from this, which is around when I decided to become a reporter.

What newspaper do you like the most and why?

My favorite is the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The reporting is to the point and well-balanced. As for what I like reporting on the best, I would say local events, as they have a direct effect on the people who are reading the publication.

Someday, you could Help Keep Journalists Safe, like Lily Hindy

By OLIVIA MINGUELA, age 11



Many journalists today do not get proper training before they go to report on dangerous stories, like war. This means that they are at risk for getting hurt or even killed while doing their jobs. Lily Hindy is deputy director of an organization called Reporters Instructed in Saving Colleagues (RISC), which trains journalists in first-aid tactics in case something goes wrong on the job.

Olivia Minguela: Why did you decide to become deputy director for the RISC training program?

Lily Hindy: My first job was assistant on the international desk at the Associated Press. When I got my master's degree in international security policy and Middle East studies, I decided to support journalists working in conflict zones. [Journalist and RISC founder] Sebastian Junger hired me to help him start an organization to train reporters in first aid. I was touched by his story about his friend, photographer Tim Hetherington, who died covering the war in Libya. Sadly, Tim's life might have been saved if someone knew first aid.

After joining RISC, have you changed your perspective on journalism?

I have learned how freelance journalists work without any support from news agencies. Freelancers today are not full-time employees, they have to pay for their own plane ticket, hotel, medical insurance and first aid training.

Do you have any friends who are combat field journalists?

I make friends every time we have a training course. That is one wonderful but difficult part of the job. Most work in dangerous places.

Is there any specific message you want people to take away from RISC?

Trainees leave RISC feeling responsible for each other. Freelance journalists bring us so much important news from dangerous areas that we would not otherwise have. We, as readers and watchers of that news, have a responsibility to keep them safe.



ALEJANDRO ARNAS

Lily Hindy speaking at a RISC War Correspondents event

My Life with Autism

By JACKSON ZAVALA, age 11



One in 68 children in the United States is diagnosed with autism, a disorder that affects the brain's development of typical social and communication skills.

When I was told I had autism back when I was very young, my mom got me into a school with a program called ASD Nest. It was a special class for kids with autism to work on having conversations and being with others. I was very happy because I had lots of fun.

When I was in third grade, we were introduced to testing. Our reaction to that was bad; since we had autism, we had double time, which made tests three hours long. Due to having to do tests, I started to not enjoy school, and I started getting bad grades.

I am sometimes bullied because I have autism, and the way I stand up for myself is by saying, "That wasn't right," and I then try to reason with the bullies to calm them down. Then if they continue to be mean, I report it to a teacher so I get some justice. But really most kids just give me my space and are nice to me.

Every day I go to cello class, and there no one knows that I have autism. There they treat me like an average person, and they don't tease me.

I started middle school in September, and I think I will do fine. I will adapt to living without the ASD Nest program, and I will find other ways to calm down and not feel anxious or stressed.

Even if I grow out of autism, I think it will always be part of my life. Any child may have autism, and nothing makes him or her any different than anyone else.



JACKSON ZAVALA

Jackson was diagnosed with autism at a very young age and has been reporting for *IndyKids* since January 2013.



FLICKR/SOMETIMESONG

GETTING WILD WITH THE OCELOT



By PAULA ISABEL PAULINO, age 9 and NYLU AVERY BERNSHAYN, age 9

Ocelots are an endangered species of wild cat that live in South America, Central America, parts of Mexico and even as far north as Texas. There are only about 50 left in Texas right now. They are often killed by cars or hunted for their beautiful fur.

An ocelot's coat looks similar to a leopard's or jaguar's. They are about twice the size of house cats, and they live in rainforests and wild brush lands.

Ocelots are endangered due to loss of their natural habitat, mostly by **deforestation**, especially in Central America.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Ocelots are carnivores – they eat rabbits, rodents, iguanas, fish and frogs. They will also climb trees to catch monkeys and birds.
- They are nocturnal animals, which means they are most active at night.

- Their eyes have a special layer that enables them to see very well in the dark.
- Ocelots have rough, black tongues, which help them to clean the meat off the bones of their prey.

Deforestation – the action or process of clearing of forests to make farmland, cities or ranches. This makes it hard for the species living there to hunt, find shelter and survive.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

2. A species of wildcat that can be found from South America up to southern Texas
7. One form of climate action that activists are encouraging universities and big organizations to take
8. A newspaper in Delhi, India, that is completely written and produced by children
9. The burning of these leads to the phrase from **4 DOWN**
10. Students led protests here demanding greater political freedom, especially around voting, in September 2014
11. A European country bordered by France, Italy, Germany and Austria

DOWN

1. Severe lack of precipitation, like rainfall, in an area for an unusual period of time
3. A poisonous chemical that can cause “Green Tobacco Sickness” in farm workers handling wet tobacco leaves
4. On September 21, 2014, there was a massive march in NYC encouraging action on this issue
5. Middle school girls have been protesting this at their schools in Indiana, New Jersey and other states
6. A community outside of St. Louis, MO, where there have been large protests against police brutality

Answers on bottom of page 2



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

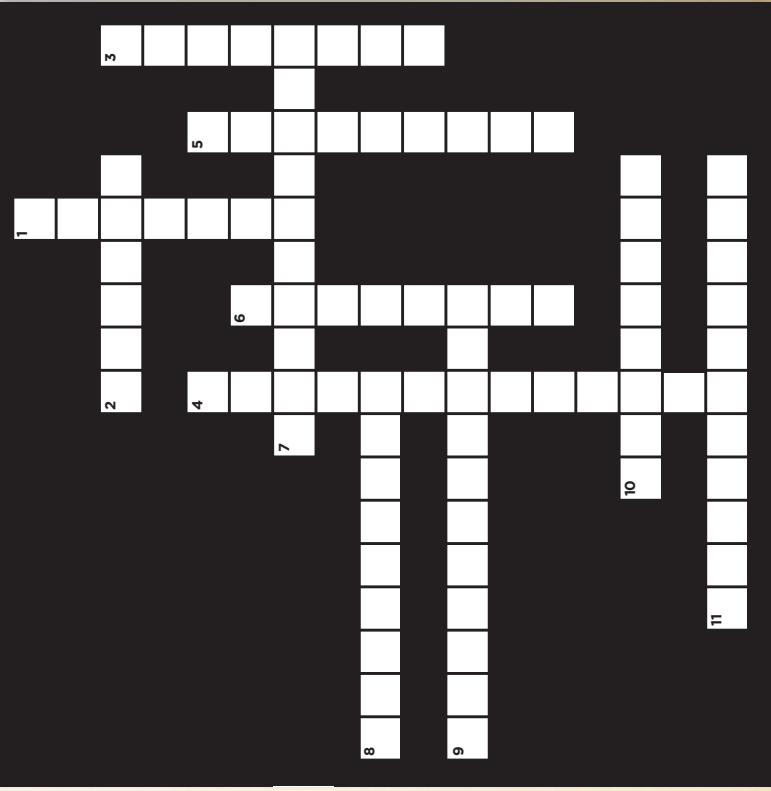
WHO AM I?



By MATTHEW DOTY, age 11

1. I was born on December 15, 1944, on a rubber reserve called Seringal Bom Futuro outside of Xapuri in northwestern Brazil.
2. I grew up in the the forest surrounding the Amazon River and was the oldest of 18 children.
3. When I was nine, I started going into the Amazon rainforest with my father to **tap** the trees for latex everyday.
4. When I was growing up, schools were not allowed on rubber tree plantations. Plantation owners were afraid that if workers knew how to read, write and do math, they would realize that they were being paid unfairly. However, I learned how to read anyway when I was 18.
5. In addition to being involved with the local rubber tappers union, I helped to create the National Council of Rubber Tappers in the mid-1980s.
6. When Amazon deforestation projects began to threaten the rainforest, I brought the cause of the rubber workers and importance of the rainforest to the attention of the world through the labor union.
7. I helped to come up with a system to preserve the rainforest by creating “extractive reserves” which saved certain areas of the forest for rubber and nut harvesting. This limits deforestation, while enabling local communities to use the forest in a sustainable way.
8. I built schools for my community in the extractive reserve so that children would be well-educated.
9. My work blended a struggle for both workers' rights and environmental protection.
10. I was murdered on December 22, 1988, by a cattle rancher who wanted to cut down trees on one of the “extractive reserves.”

Rubber tapping – the process of removing latex from rubber trees by cutting into its bark and collecting the latex as it oozes out. The latex can then be used to make natural rubber.



Answer on bottom of page

WE ARE THE FUTURE



By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 11

Whispers in my ears

Let me stop and hear:

The voices of pain and despair

Float through the air,

Climate change, war and disease

Make them stop, please.

Awaken the first world, sound the bells

Raise awareness, heed the yells.

I wish for Ebola vaccines,

An end to war machines,

Safe animal habitats, land and marine,

And for the world to be serene.